



## **Survivor Engagement Strategy: Workshops or Events**

**Overview:** With recognition of survivors' experiences of loneliness and loss, the staff at Hope Springs works to maximize opportunities for celebration. We celebrate life events, holidays, community activities, and special outings. In the past year, we've gone caroling, hosted monthly birthday celebrations, attended community festivals, provided a Thanksgiving lunch, offered movie nights, game nights, exercise classes and crafting activities. To wrap up the summer, the team took staff and clients on a trip to Michigan Beach. Clients currently involved with the program and former clients are invited to participate in these events to help make and maintain social connections.

**Successes:** Hope springs has spent many months trying to figure out ways to help our survivors be celebrated and do things they may not have ever been able to do prior to coming here. We have been doing fun trips over the past few years and each time we take one it creates bonds and memories that will last a life time. While making these memories it replaces the old ones, and allows them to see how worthy and deserving they are. We get to watch them create these new memories and bonds with others that hopefully will last a lifetime. We make sure even when our survivors move on, they are always included in events because they remind us, we will always be their family. We are not just helping heal trauma but creating lasting informal supports that they can pass down.

**Challenges:** We have had to be creative when it comes to finding places to go that are in this area and volunteers to run the shelter while we are gone.

**How we pay for it:** Hope Springs has had great success in soliciting donations and sponsorships in support of these activities from local businesses and organizations.

**For more information:** Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to hear more about Hope Springs' community activities. Contact Megan Lyons, Facilities & Shelter Services Director, at: [hopesprings076@gmail.com](mailto:hopesprings076@gmail.com)

